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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of 31 January 2000 attaching the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor (A/54/726-S/2000/59) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. Grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have been committed; those responsible for these violations should be brought to justice as soon as possible.

The members of the Security Council welcome the commitment of the Government of Indonesia, as set out in the letter to you dated 26 January 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Alwi Shihab (A/54/727-S/2000/65, annex), to bring those responsible to justice through Indonesia's national judicial system. To that end, they encourage Indonesia to institute a swift, comprehensive, effective and transparent legal process, in conformity with international standards of justice and due process of law. In this context, Council members recognize that the accountability of those responsible for the aforementioned violations would be a key factor in ensuring reconciliation and stability in East Timor. They are particularly conscious that early and effective action by the Government of Indonesia would contribute to improved relations between the peoples of Indonesia and East Timor.

The members of the Security Council share your belief that the United Nations has its role to play in this process in order to help safeguard the rights of the people of East Timor, promote reconciliation and ensure future social and political stability. The members of the Council welcome your intention to assist in this effort. In this regard, they encourage you to consult with the Government of Indonesia on any assistance it may need from the United Nations in taking this process forward.

The members of the Security Council would be grateful if you could inform the Council on further developments in order to assist its consideration of the situation in East Timor.

(Signed) Arnoldo Manuel LISTRE
President of the Security Council

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